

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9074

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2240

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE PN UNSC

SUBJECT: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA-- CONCERN
OVER EXTRA- CONTINENTAL INTRUSION IN HEMISPHERIC
QUESTIONS

REF: STATE 44820

1. AT REQUEST OF FONMIN CLAVANI, AND IN VIEW OF HIS
IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR PANAMA, I MET ON MARCH 13 WITH
DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY PEREZ CHIRIBOGA. IN
COURSE OF CONVERSATION, I MADE TO HIM FULL PRESENTATION
OF US CONCERN OVER EXTRA- CONTINENTAL INTRUSION IN HEMISPHERIC
QUESTIONS AS SET FORTH REFTEL AND HANDED HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE
ON SAME SUBJECT:

2. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA LISTENED WITH EVIDENT INTEREST AND
REPLIED THA VENEZUELA IS SIMILARLY VERY CONCERNED OVER
UNSC MEETING IN PANAMA. FONMIN CALVANI WILL TRAVEL THERE
MARCH 15 EXPECTS TO SPEAK THAT SAME DAY, WILL REMAIN
THROUGH FRIDAY AND RETURN TO CARACAS ON SATURDAY, MARCH
17.

3. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA SAID THAT SPEAKING FRANKLY BUT " OFF
THE RECORD" VENEZUELA IS SENDING ITS FONMIN TO UNSC MEETING
IN PANAMA FOR ONE REASON ONLY. THAT REASON IS " FETISH"
(HIS WORD NOT MINE) OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY-- A
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FETISH WHICH VENEZUELA CAN NEITHER RESIST NOR REFUSE.

4. FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, SAID PEREZ CHIRIBOGA, ENTIRE CONCEPT OF UNSC MEETING IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR VENEZUELA. IN FIRST INSTANCE IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF FONMINS IN ROLE OF "OBSERVERS". SECONDLY, VENEZUELA IS INHERENTLY DEDICATED TO CONCEPT OF BILATERAL RESOLUTION OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS-- AS EVIDENCED BY ITS CONSISTENT STAND IN RELATION ITS OWN PROBLEMS WITH COLOMBIA AND GUYANA. GNEZUELA IS BASICALLY OPPOSED TO INVOLVEMENT OF THIRD PARTIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

ADDITIONALLY, GOV STRONGLY FEARS THAT INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ONLY THROWS BILATERAL PROBLEMS INTO A PUBLIC SPHERE WHERE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND NEWS AGENCIES QUICKLY BEGIN TO COMPLICATE THEM.

5. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA SAID THAT PANAMA HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED VENEZUELA TO SUPPORT IDEA OF UNSC MEETING IN THAT COUNTRY. FROM THAT POINT FORWARD HOWEVER MATTER HAD STEADILY GROWN MORE COMPLICATED, TO DISMAY OF GOV, WITH ACCUMULATING ASPECTS OF ATTENDANCE BY FONMINS, CONSIDERATION OF CANAL ZONE PROBLE M. ETC. ALONG THE WAY, GOV HAD "FRATERNALLY" ADVISED PANAMANIANIS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER VOTING MEMBERS OF UNSC TO OBTAIN AND CONSIDER THEIR VIEWS BEFORE GOING TOO FAR. GOV DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS ADVICE FOLLOWED BUT RATHER DOUBTS IT.

6. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA EXPRESSED VENEZUELAN ATNTICIPTION THAT PANAMA WILL SUBMIT AND SPONSOR EARLY DECLARATION IN COURSE OF UNSC MEETING, TURNING THEREAFTER TO PROBLEM OF US-PANAMA RELATIONS OVER CANAL ZONE. VENEZUELA, AS OF NOW, ANTICIPATES THAT ITS OWN POSITION AND CONTRIBUTION WILL BE MILDLY COUCHED AND MORE OR LESS LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES INVOLVED WILL BRING AMICABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AT ISSUE. AT THE SAME TIME PEREZ CHIRIBOGA WAS FRANK TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT BEGIN TO FORESEE OR PREDICT HOW FINAL RESOLUTION MIGHT BE WORDED.

8. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, PEREZ CHIRIBOGA INDICATED HIS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH USG CONCERN OVER EXTRA- CONTINENTAL
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INTRUSION IN HEMISPHERIC QUESTIONS, EXPRESSED OWN PERSONAL

SUPPORT FOR PRIMACY OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND PROMISED
TO BRING OUR VIEWS AND AIDE MEMOIRE TO ATTENTION OF FONMIN
CALVANI PRIOR TO LATTER' S DEPARTURE FOR PANAMA.
DEVINE

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